

Enterprise Solution Management

Once the enterprise solution has achieved FOC, the focus of the DoD's biometrics program turns to maintaining and securing DoD biometric data and managing the network over which those data are exchanged. However, the rapidly evolving nature of biometric technologies will continue to present challenges and opportunities for improvement. In fact, as illustrated in Figure 2 on the preceding page, the development of a biometrics enterprise solution is itself an ongoing, iterative process.

This approach follows a "build as you grow" concept, dividing the system into several useful, supportable, and operational increments. In growing biometrics capability, demonstrated technology and operational concepts are incorporated into sequential Capability Increments (CIs). As each CI completes the build phase, it becomes the baseline for the next increment. This ongoing process will ensure that the BMO continues to meet its mission within the DoD, and will ensure that the DoD possesses the identity assurance system that it needs to meet its mission to the people of the United States.

Biometrics—A Prime Security Enabler

As the DoD moves further into the digital age, biometrics serve as a prime security enabler by ensuring positive identification of those accessing critical systems and facilities. This technology offers countless uses for military applications in future systems, including information assurance, force protection, and access control. However, mature technology adoption takes a deliberate, conservative approach in order to achieve optimal effectiveness. The DoD's initiative with the BMO's biometric Enterprise Solution assumes this course of action to ensure that the resulting system architecture is interoperable, scalable, and able to meet the growing demands of our transforming military.

Editor's Note: The authors welcome questions or comments on this article. Contact ssadlon@brtrc.com.

Defense Acquisition University Awarded National Accreditation

FORT BELVOIR, Va. (Feb. 4, 2003)—The Commission of the Council on Occupational Education (COE) has granted accreditation to the Defense Acquisition University, located at Fort Belvoir, Va. Announcement of the action was made by Harry L. Bowman, Executive Director, Commission of the Council on Occupational Education (COE), following the Commission's meeting held in Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 2-4, 2003.

The award of accreditation status is based on an evaluation to demonstrate that the institution meets not only the standards of quality of the Commission, but also the needs of students, the community, and employers.

The Commission's evaluation process includes an extensive self-study by the institution and an intensive review by a visiting team of professional educators representing the Commission's member institutions from other states.

The Defense Acquisition University began its self study in July 2000 and underwent a team visit in November 2002. The visiting team chairperson was James Conely.

The COE, based in Atlanta, Ga., offers quality assurance services to post-secondary workforce education providers across the nation. Organized as a non-profit corporation, the mission of the Council is to assure quality and integrity in career and workforce development. Services offered include institutional accreditation (recognized by the U.S. Department of Education), program quality reviews for states and workforce education providers, and informational services. Most of the Council's work is carried out by qualified professional volunteers who are experts in workforce education.

Institutional membership in the Council is voluntary, but can be achieved only by becoming accredited. The Council's current membership makes it unique. Members include postsecondary public technical institutes, specialized military and national defense schools, Job Corps Centers, private career schools, non-profit workforce education providers, corporate and industry education units, and federal agency institutions. No other agency accredits and serves the diversity of organizations served by the Council. There are approximately 410 institutional members at the present time.

The Defense Acquisition University, with headquarters at Fort Belvoir, Va., has regional campuses in Patuxent River, Md.; Dayton, Ohio; Huntsville, Ala.; and San Diego, Calif. For its primary mission, DAU provides training and education to approximately 129,000 practitioners in the Department of Defense Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Workforce (DoD AT&L).

Editor's Note: To view the DAU 2003 Course Catalog, visit <http://www.dau.mil> and click on "DAU Courses."

